

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A corner guard to protect a pre-hung door assembly comprising:

a frontal barrier member comprising a bumper member having a raised outer bumper surface and an inner base surface;

a fixed side flange affixed to said frontal barrier member and extending approximately perpendicularly with respect to the inner base surface such that a right angle inner surface corner contour is formed therebetween; and

an outwardly extensible lip member affixed to said frontal barrier member and comprising a proximal end affixed to said frontal barrier member and a free distal end at which said lip member is extensible,

wherein the proximal end of said lip member comprises a substantially flat strip member extending approximately perpendicularly with respect to the inner base surface of said frontal barrier member on the same side of the frontal barrier member as said fixed side flange, such that a right angle brace is formed between the inner base surface and the proximal end of said lip member, and wherein said substantially flat strip member is disposed approximately perpendicularly to said fixed side flange,

said lip member further comprising a corner flange disposed at its distal end, whereby with said lip member outwardly extended relative to said frontal barrier member, said corner flange is disposed approximately parallel to said fixed side flange.

2. (original) The corner guard of claim 1, wherein said frontal barrier member, said fixed side flange, and said lip member are formed as an integrally molded plastic unit.

3. through 5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) The corner guard of claim 1, wherein said lip member corner flange curves inwardly.

7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) The corner guard of claim 1, wherein said raised outer bumper surface is substantially flat.

9. (currently amended) The corner guard of claim 1 [[7]], wherein the width-to-height ratio of said bumper member is at least 1.0.

10. (currently amended) The corner guard of claim 1 [[7]], wherein said bumper member has a width between 1.25" and 1.50".

11. (currently amended) The corner guard of claim 1 [[7]], wherein said bumper member has a height between 0.875" and 1.25".

12. (previously presented) The corner guard of claim 1, wherein said frontal barrier member further includes a substantially flat transition flange that couples said bumper member to the proximal end of said lip member.

13. through 27. (canceled)

28. (previously presented) A pre-hung door assembly comprising:

a door secured within a door frame, said door frame comprising two vertical frame members and a cross-frame member, the combination of which define four corners; and

four corner guards attached respectively to the four corners of the door frame, wherein each of said four corner guards comprises:

a frontal barrier member disposed across the front of a one of said corners of the pre-hung door assembly; said frontal barrier member comprising a bumper member having a raised outer bumper surface and an inner base surface;

a fixed side flange affixed to said frontal barrier member and extending approximately perpendicularly with respect to the barrier surface provided by said frontal barrier member such that a right angle inner surface corner contour is formed therebetween; and

an outwardly extensible lip member affixed to said door retention member and comprising a proximal end affixed to said frontal barrier member and a free distal end at which said lip member is extensible,

wherein the proximal end of said lip member comprises a substantially flat strip member extending approximately perpendicularly with respect to the inner base surface of said frontal barrier member on the same side of the frontal barrier member as said fixed side flange, such that a right angle brace is formed between the inner base surface and the proximal end of said lip member, and wherein said substantially flat strip member is disposed approximately perpendicularly to said fixed side flange, such that in combination said lip member and said fixed side flange receive one of said corners,

said lip member further comprising a corner flange disposed at its distal end, whereby with said lip member outwardly extended relative to said frontal barrier member, said corner flange is disposed approximately parallel to said fixed side flange.

29. (previously presented) The pre-hung door assembly of claim 28, wherein said corner flange and said fixed side flange of two of said four corner guards are secured to said cross-frame member, and wherein said corner flange and said fixed side flange of the remaining two of said four corner guards are secured to said vertical frame members.

30. (canceled)

31. (original) The pre-hung door assembly of claim 28, wherein said frontal barrier member, said fixed side flange, and said lip member are formed as an integrally molded plastic unit.

32. through 34. (canceled)

35. (previously presented) The pre-hung door assembly of claim 28, said door having a bottom edge and each of said vertical frame members having a bottom end extending in offset manner below the bottom edge of the door to form an L-shaped bottom corner region of the pre-hung door assembly, and wherein with said lip member is outwardly extended said lip member corner flange is secured to the bottom end of the vertical frame member.

36. (previously presented) The pre-hung door assembly of claim 28, wherein said lip member corner flange curves inwardly.

37. (canceled)

38. (previously presented) The pre-hung door assembly of claim 28, wherein said raised outer bumper surface is substantially flat.

39. (previously presented) The pre-hung door assembly of claim 28, wherein the width-to-height ratio of said bumper member is at least 1.0.

40. (previously presented) The pre-hung door assembly of claim 28, wherein said bumper member has a width between 1.25" and 1.50".

41. (previously presented) The pre-hung door assembly of claim 28, wherein said bumper member has a height between 0.875" and 1.25".

42. (previously presented) The pre-hung door assembly of claim 28, wherein said frontal barrier member further includes a flat transition flange that couples said bumper member to the proximal end of said lip member.